

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AEC-11 DODE-00

FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INT-08 L-03 NSC-10 PM-07 SAM-01

SCI-06 SS-20 JUSE-00 FTC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /201 W

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R 151740Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6471

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS JUSTICE ANTI-TRUST DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION INVESTIGATING OIL COMPANIES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 244 (NOTAL)

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1. ON FEBRUARY 13, WE SPOKE WITH ALFONS STEINWAND, A
SECTION CHIEF IN THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL

ON COMPETITION POLICY WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION THE COMMISSION IS MAKING INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIL COMPANIES (SEE REFTEL). STEINWAND SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SUBJECT, HE HAS BEEN ASKED NOT TO DISCUSS IT. HE DID OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS: THE COMMISSION IS JUST AT THE BEGINNING OF ITS INVESTIGATION AND IS MAKING A DETAILED STUDY OF THE PRICING SYSTEM AND SALES VOLUME OF THE OIL COMPANIES OVER THE WHOLE RANGE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, CRUDE OIL, REFINING AND DISTRIBUTION. THE COMMISSION IS COMPARING THE PRICES THE OIL COMPANIES CHARGE TO INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS WITH THE PRICES THEY CHARGE TO THEIR OWN SUBSIDIARIES OR AFFILIATES.

2. AN OFFICIAL OF AN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY HAS TOLD US THAT COMMISSION INVESTIGATORS VISITED TWO REFINERIES IN THE ANTWERP REGION DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A BELGIAN OFFICIAL WHO ASKED THE REFINERY MANAGERS FOR THEIR FULL COOPERATION. THE INVESTIGATING TEAM WENT OVER THE REFINERY RECORDS ON CRUDE PRICES, TRANSPORT COSTS, REFINERY COSTS, SELLING PRICES OF THE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, ETC. ONE OF THE REFINERIES IS OWNED BY BRITISH PETROLEUM AND PETROFINA (S.I.B.A.) AND THE OTHER, THE ALBATROSS REFINERY, IS AN INDEPENDENT BELGIAN COMPANY. MYERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005